

# City of Augusta, Maine

## DEPARTMENT OF CITY SERVICES

### BUREAUS:

Code Enforcement (207) 626-2368  
Facilities & Buildings (207) 626-2365

(207) 626-2365



### BUREAUS:

Engineering (207) 626-2367  
Planning (207) 626-2366

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Judy Lindsey, MaineDOT

**FROM:** Susan Redmond

**DATE:** October 15, 2009

**RE:** Exit 112 and 113 Environmental Assessment  
Task 3.3.15 Pedestrian & Bicycle Use

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Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash Data. I have attached three (3) maps that were created by Tonya Young and Duane Brunell of the MaineDOT Safety Office. The maps depict the locations of pedestrian and/or bike crashes in the study area from 1998 to 2008. There was one (1) bike crash and six (6) pedestrian crashes within the study area. This is a list of the maps:

<u>Map Name</u>	<u>What Map Depicts</u>
Bike1998-2008.jpg	bike crashes
Bike-pedstrianaugusta1998-2008.jpg	bike and pedestrian crashes
Pedestrian1998-2008.jpg	pedestrian crashes

In an e-mail that I received from Dan Stewart, MaineDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, concerning MaineDOT's bike and pedestrian crash data, he cautioned "...the data can be misleading. Just because there is a crash doesn't mean there is an issue, just because there is not one, does not mean there is not an issue with safety."

Proposed Sidewalk along Civic Center Drive. The City of Augusta collected a traffic impact fee for a sidewalk along Civic Center Drive from Darin Drive to Community Drive (Civic Center entrance). This fee is listed among the materials submitted for Task 1.2 Review Previous Studies.

Sidewalk and Bicycle Lane Locations. I have attached a plan entitled "Existing Sidewalk and Bicycle Lane Locations", dated October 2009, and prepared by the City of Augusta Engineering Bureau. The majority of the sidewalks are in the southern portion of the study area. There are bike lanes in the southern portion of the study area. The bike lanes are located along Sunset Avenue, Dean Court, Pepin Avenue, Lafayette Street, Fuller Street, Northern Avenue, Monroe Street, and Oxford Street. They were created as part of a Safe Routes to School project. They connect Sylvio Gilbert Elementary School, which is located at 1 Sunset Avenue, to a neighborhood.

Sidewalk Snow Removal. I have attached a plan entitled "City of Augusta Sidewalk Routes" which was prepared by the City of Augusta Engineering Bureau. It depicts sidewalks that the City of

Augusta Public Works Department removes snow from in the winter. These sidewalks are in the southern portion of the study area.

Townsend Road Traffic Calming. As part of the Marketplace Phase 3A development, traffic calming measures were installed along Townsend Road. The speed limit was reduced and the road is now pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

Trails. These are the public parks and recreation lands within or in close proximity to the study area that include trails for pedestrians and/or bicyclists:

*Central Maine Commerce Center:* The Central Maine Commerce Center has 46.6 acres of conservation area on the far west side of the development. Plans are in the works for a trail system. Trails may be for walking and/or bicycle use. It is accessed from Burns Drive (Map 1, Lot 252).

*University of Maine at Augusta:* The University of Maine at Augusta has four miles of trails on eighty acres of land. The trails are multi-purpose and include pedestrian and bicycle use. It is located off University Drive (Map 5, Lot 54).

References:

1. City of Augusta 2007 Comprehensive Plan
2. Public Recreation Property & Facilities, 2001-2006, Prepared for the City of Augusta Community Services Department, by H. Dominie, Inc.